

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 04-01-27**

Date Published: January 22, 2004
For Work Week Commencing: January 26, 2004
Commission Meeting: January 27, 2004, 9:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, emailed to all persons who have properly requested notice by email, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.state.mt.us>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Steve Vick at (406) 444-6187. He may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

9:00 a.m. Weekly Scheduling (Commission Conference Room)

9:30 a.m. Business (Bollinger Room)

Public Comments

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. BLACK HILLS POWER D2003.12.177 (Eric)

On December 26, 2003, BHP filed a Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider application. A Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing was issued on December 31, 2003. Requests for hearing were due by January 27, 2004. No requests have been received. This application will decrease revenues by \$11,753 over the base cost of fuel approved in Docket No. 83.4.25. A default order has been drafted.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated.

1. FCC CC 96-45 - Montana Public Service Commission – FCC Order on 10th Circuit Remand – Federal USF. (1/27/04)
2. NorthWestern Energy – Placeholder to Get Direction on Any Matter Related to the NorthWestern Energy Bankruptcy. (1/27/04)

Other Meetings

1/27/03 – 1:30 p.m. – Bonneville Power Transmission Meeting

1/29/03 – 9:00 a.m. – Energy and T-Com Meeting – Great Falls

1/30/03 – 8:30 a.m. – Energy and T-Com Meeting – Great Falls

Weekly Scheduling – Will be held at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the Commission Meeting

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda. Public comments on a noticed matter may also be submitted within the required time through the PSC's web-based comment form at <http://psc.state.mt.us/PublicComment/PublicComment.htm>. Comments should reference the docket number of the matter.

1. MDU Resources Group, Inc. D2004.1.4 (Eric)

On January 16, 2004, MDU applied for authority to issue an additional 1.5 million shares of the Company's Common Stock to be issued from time to time in connection with the Company's Option Award Program. In Docket No. D99.12.285, Default Order No. 6222, the Commission authorized the Company to issue up to 420,000 shares of Common Stock for this program. The Company requests that the authorization requested in the filing permit the Company to issue and sell the Common Stock from time to time, in one or more transactions, until all the shares specified in this application have been issued.

2. Sprint Communications Co. N2004.1.9 (Scott)

On January 20, 2004, Sprint filed a change to its price list No. 1. The purpose of this filing is to remove Monthly Recurring Charge (MRC) from tariff and replace it with the sentence pointing to the interstate rates and conditions web address.

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

New Filings Received in Past Week

D2004.1.4 – MDU Resources – Application for Authorization to Issue Securities

D2004.1.5 – InterBel Wireless – Petition for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier

D2004.1.6 – Triangle Communication System - Petition for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier

D2004.1.7 – Sagebrush Cellular - Petition for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier

D2004.1.8 – Northern Communications - Petition for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier

N2004.1.9 – Sprint – Tariff Changes to Price List No. 1